



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

TENNESSEE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

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TENNESSEE BECOMES ONE OF THREE STATES IN THE NATION WITH 100% E-911 SERVICE

DUNLAP, TN- Following the deployment of the Enhanced 911 service in Sequatchie County, Tennessee is now the third state in the nation to offer this service in all of its counties.

Randy Porter, Tennessee Emergency Communications Board chairman, describes E-911 service as the capability to locate cell phone users who dial 911.

“There are two phases to this coverage,” Porter says. “In Phase I, the cell phone number and the location of the cell tower closest to the caller are displayed to the dispatcher. With the Phase II service now offered to Tennesseans, the call center is capable of receiving coordinates showing the actual longitude and latitude—the physical location of the caller -- so long as the call is made with a phone that can transmit the location information and the phone is purchased from a carrier that provides the location information.”

In March of this year, the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board, the agency charged with establishing emergency communications for all citizens of the state, was honored for having the best state or regional program in the nation by the E-911 Institute in Washington, DC. This accomplishment reflects Tennessee's continued leadership in E-911.

Strong statewide coordination and funding has much to do with Tennessee's success. The Tennessee Emergency Communications Board oversees the administration of funds collected to operate the 911 system throughout the state and sets technical and operational standards for E-911.

All cell phone users should determine whether or not their phones are equipped to locate them in an emergency. “This system represents the best 911 technology available, and it didn't come easily. More than sixty-five percent of the counties in America, mostly in rural areas, lack Phase II service. But it only works if your phone can transmit the information,” Porter said.

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The Tennessee Emergency Communications Board serves as the state's authority for E-911 issues and financial oversight of the state's 100 local emergency communications districts. For more information visit our website at: www.state.tn.us/commerce/911.